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The American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Announces the 2010 Recipients of the Lawyer As Problem Solver Award

Washington, DC (January 11, 2010) – The 2010 American Bar Association Lawyer as Problem Solver Award will be presented to Bennett Picker and Andrew Schepard as the individual recipients and to Mediate.com as the institutional recipient. The awards presentation will be made on April 9th at the American Bar Association Section of Dispute Resolution Awards Dinner.

The ABA Section of Dispute Resolution established the Lawyer as Problem Solver Awards to recognize individuals and organizations that use their legal skills in creative, innovative and often non-traditional ways to solve problems for their clients and within their communities.

Bennett G. Picker

Bennett G. Picker is a Senior Counsel of Stradley, Ronon, Stevens & Young, LLP. Under Mr. Picker's direction the Stradley Ronon firm was one of the very first to recognize, embrace and promote ADR within the law firm setting. Despite the oft-quoted tension between a law firm's need for billable hours and the more cost-efficient, problem solving approach to dispute resolution, Stradley Ronon established a section of their firm devoted to ADR practice (something which is still rare in today's law firms). The success of Stradley's ADR approach to dispute resolution permeated throughout the firm and is now a hallmark of its approach to client service.

As an advocate for his clients, Mr. Picker has patiently taken time to work with them to help them understand the benefits of ADR in their business and personal matters. He has created a unique culture of communication and attention to client needs by providing ADR training to all of the firm's lawyers on a consistent basis. He led initiatives to assist clients in early case assessment and utilization of ADR counseling and advocacy to achieve solutions consistent with their business objectives.

As an advocate for Diversity in the ADR field, Ben has set the standard for promoting diversity initiatives. In 2006, Ben was selected to serve as a member of the CPR National Task Force on Diversity in ADR and proposed and collaborated to develop a Diversity Audit for in house counsel to encourage law firms to commit to diversity. Over the years Ben has encouraged and mentored many women and minorities to enter the ADR field.

Andrew Schepard

Andrew Schepard is a Professor of Law and the Director of the Center on Children, Families and the Law at Hofstra University School of Law. Throughout his career he has worked tirelessly as a policy advocate, legal advocate, grass roots organizer, trainer, editor, teacher and scholar. In every one of these roles he has employed and promoted dispute resolution practices and collaborative problem solving. Furthermore, as a law professor, he has created ongoing and meaningful opportunities for his students to

become participants in his reform work, thereby passing on dispute resolution and collaborative problem solving skills to future generations of lawyers.

Professor Schepard has consistently served as a problem solver at the highest level, identifying important challenges in our field and spearheading community and policy initiatives that impact families throughout the country. He effectively marshals the resources of his academic institution, leverages his relationships with leading thinkers in the field and collaborates with local and national professional organizations to move initiatives forward, shaping practice and policy in the family law and dispute resolution arena. There are numerous examples of Professor Schepard's creative problem solving success : In the early 1990s he founded the PEACE (Parent Education and Custody Effectiveness) Program; he served as co-chair of the Family Law Education Reform (FLER) Project that calls for the integration of dispute resolution, an interdisciplinary perspective and skills training into the family law curriculum; he served as the only lawyer on a four-member consultation team that developed the Family Civil Intake Screen; and he has served over the past two years as the Reporter for the Uniform Law Commission's Uniform Collaborative Law Act (UCLA) for which he has received accolades from diverse interests for his problem solving efforts.

Mediate.com

Mediate.com has been at the forefront of making the power of the internet accessible to lawyers, mediators and dispute resolution practitioners. Mediate.com has been developing digital products and resources that have advanced the presence and depth of the field of dispute resolution in immeasurable ways and fundamentally altered the practice of mediation by making online strategies practical and available.

Mediate.com offers the field one of the most used information resources, replete with blogs, cutting edge articles, news of mediation and negotiation practice, as well as a place for interactive dialogue. The website is a practical tool for practitioners and helps them become more effective problem solvers.

Mediate.com applies the technology of the internet directly to lawyers and dispute resolution practitioners. The founders of Mediate.com had the foresight to see the importance and applications of internet and bring them to bear on a developing field of practice. This groundbreaking website has given tools and resources to the public and to ADR professionals to do their own problem solving in virtually every field of law.